

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (Previously Presented) An apoptosis inducing agent which comprises an isolated Vpr protein encoded by Vpr gene of HIV-1 wherein 15 amino acid residues from the C-terminal are deleted.

Claim 2 (Canceled)

Claim 3 (Previously Presented) The apoptosis inducing agent according to claim 1, which comprises said protein having substantially no ability of arresting a cell in G₂ phase.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented) An isolated apoptosis-inducing gene encoding the protein according to claim 1.

Claim 5 (Canceled)

Claim 6 (Original) A recombinant vector containing the gene according to claim 4.

Claim 7 – 14 (Canceled)

Claim 15 (Previously Presented) An isolated apoptosis-inducing gene encoding the protein according to claim 3.

Claims 16 – 22 (Canceled)